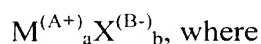


cyanide catalysis and wherein the reaction of the alkylene oxides onto the H-functional initiator substances is carried out in the presence of at least one metal salt of the formula



M is selected from at least one of Li^+ , Na^+ , K^+ , Rb^+ , Cs^+ , Be^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Sr^{2+} , and Ba^{2+} ,

X is selected from at least one of F^- , Cl^- , ClO^- , ClO_3^- , ClO_4^- , Br^- , I^- , IO_3^- , CN^- , OCN^- , NO_2^- , NO_3^- , HCO_3^- , CO_3^{2-} , S^{2-} , SH^- , HSO_3^- , SO_3^{2-} , HSO_4^- , SO_4^{2-} , $S_2O_2^{2-}$, $S_2O_3^{2-}$, $S_2O_4^{2-}$, $S_2O_5^{2-}$, $S_2O_6^{2-}$, $S_2O_7^{2-}$, $S_2O_8^{2-}$, $H_2PO_2^-$, $H_2PO_4^-$, HPO_4^{2-} , PO_4^{3-} , $P_2O_7^{4-}$, $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$, $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$ where $n = 1-20$ and their mixed salts and mixtures,

A^+ is the valence of the cation,

B^- is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.

2. (Twice Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salt

$M^{(A+)}_a X^{(B-)}_b$ is selected such that:

$M^{(A+)} = Li^+, Na^+, K^+, Mg^{2+}, \text{ or } Ca^{2+}$, and

$X^{(B-)} = F^-, Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, NO_3^-, HCO_3^-, CO_3^{2-}, HSO_4^-, SO_4^{2-}, H_2PO_4^-, HPO_4^{2-}, PO_4^{3-}, (C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-, \text{ or } (C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$ where $n = 1-20$

and their mixed salts and mixtures, where

A^+ is the valence of the cation,

B^- is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

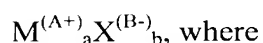
with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.

5. (Amended) A process as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the metal salt is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 50 ppm, based on the compound having at least two active hydrogen atoms.

6. (Twice Amended) A polyurethane produced according to any one of the processes as claimed in claims 1 or 2.

7. (Twice Amended) A flexible polyurethane foam produced according to any one of the processes as claimed in claims 1 or 2.

8. (Twice Amended) A polyether alcohol comprising the reaction product of H-functional compounds with alkylene oxides using multimetal cyanides as catalysts comprising at least one metal salt of the formula



M is selected from at least one of Li^+ , Na^+ , K^+ , Rb^+ , Cs^+ , Be^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Sr^{2+} , and Ba^{2+} ,

X is selected from at least one of F^- , Cl^- , ClO^- , ClO_3^- , ClO_4^- , Br^- , I^- , IO_3^- , CN^- , OCN^- , NO_2^- , NO_3^- , HCO_3^- , CO_3^{2-} , S^{2-} , SH^- , HSO_3^- , SO_3^{2-} , HSO_4^- , SO_4^{2-} , $S_2O_2^{2-}$, $S_2O_3^{2-}$, $S_2O_4^{2-}$, $S_2O_5^{2-}$, $S_2O_6^{2-}$, $S_2O_7^{2-}$, $S_2O_8^{2-}$, $H_2PO_2^-$, $H_2PO_4^-$, HPO_4^{2-} , PO_4^{3-} , $P_2O_7^{4-}$, $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$, $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$ where $n = 1-20$ and their mixed salts and mixtures,

A^+ is the valence of the cation,

B^- is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the compound is electrically neutral.